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STRENGTHENING OF THE AGENCY'S TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Draft resolution recommended by the Committee of the Whole

The General Conference,

(a) Recalling resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/11 on financing of technical assistance and GC(41)/RES/13 on "Strengthening of the Agency's technical co-operation activities",

(b) Noting that the objectives of the Agency as stated in Article II of the Statute are "to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world" and to ensure that the assistance provided is not used to further any military purpose,

(c) Noting also that one of the statutory functions of the Agency is to "encourage and assist research on, and development and practical application of atomic energy for peaceful uses throughout the world",

(d) Considering that an expansion of technical co-operation activities relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy will contribute to the well-being and enriching the quality of life of the peoples of the world, and particularly those of developing Member States of the Agency,

(e) Stressing the importance of the transfer of nuclear technology to the developing countries for enhancing their scientific and technological capabilities and thereby generating rapid economic development,

(f) Conscious of the great potential of nuclear power for meeting energy requirements in many countries and the need to protect the environment, and

(g) Desiring that the Agency's resources for technical co-operation activities be assured, predictable and sufficient to meet the objectives mandated in Article II of the Statute, recalling that the Board of Governors approved recommendations to that effect as contained in document GOV/1998/36,

(h) Recalling that the Board of Governors adapted the TCF Planning Cycle to the effect that target figures be determined every two years for a four year period,

(i) Recalling that in the report of the Informal Working Group on Financing of Technical Assistance (GOV/1998/38) it is noted that there would be a perspective of an increase in the target figures for 2001-2002 biennium as compared with the 1999-2000 biennium,

(j) Emphasizing the need to maintain an appropriate balance between the promotional activities and other statutory activities of the Agency,

(k) Recognizing that human resources development is an important component of technical co-operation activities, and

(l) Taking note with appreciation of the different activities carried out by the Secretariat as outlined in document GC(42)/INF/4 to implement the Technical Co-operation Strategy (GOV/INF/824), including an emphasis on sustainable development and improved project design and evaluation; and especially activities to promote TCDC,

1. Stresses the need, in conformity with the Statute, to strengthen technical co-operation activities and also their effectiveness and efficiency and, in this regard, expresses appreciation to the Secretariat for elaboration of the Technical Co-operation Strategy;

2. Notes that agreement has been reached on Indicative Planning Figures (IPFs) for the year 1999-2000 and urges the Board of Governors to resume discussions among Member States with a view to recommending target figures for 2001-2002;

3. Urges all Member States, to make every effort to pay in full and on time their contributions to the Technical Co-operation Fund and reminds Member States of their obligation to pay their Assessed Programme Costs;

4. Requests the Director General to pursue, in consultation with Member States, efforts to strengthen the technical co-operation activities of the Agency through the development of effective programmes aimed at improving the scientific, technological and regulatory capabilities of developing countries, account being taken of the infrastructure and the level of technology of the countries concerned by continuing to assist them in their (a) peaceful applications of atomic energy and nuclear techniques in the fields of agriculture, medicine, industry, water resource management, environment, etc. and (b) nuclear energy production for those States pursuing it as a component of the energy mix in the 21st century, through relevant areas of importance as identified by Member States;

5. Emphasizes that these programmes should contribute to achieving sustainable development in developing countries, and particularly in least developed countries;

6. Requests the Director General to continue to take account of the view of the General Conference on this question when requesting Member States to pledge their respective shares of the Technical Co-operation Fund targets and to make timely payments to the Fund;

7. Requests the Director General to continue the Agency's efforts to identify regional centres of excellence, in consultation with the relevant regional groups in the context of enhancing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC); and

8. Requests the Director General and the Board of Governors to remain seized of this matter and further requests the Director General to report to the Board of Governors periodically and to the General Conference at its forty-third session on the implementation of this resolution under an agenda item entitled "Strengthening of the Agency's technical co-operation activities".